

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1937.

With compliments.



June, 1938.

To - The Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health, Housing and Sanitary condition of the District for the year 1937.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	...	...	...	46,618
Population	...	...	...	11,210
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,279
Number of Families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	3,304
Rateable Value	...	...	...	40,607
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£157

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Causes of Death (Civilians only)

<u>Cause of Death</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
All causes	...	...	84
Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever	...	-	-
Measles	...	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-
Diphtheria	...	-	-
Influenza	...	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	3	1
Other Tuberculosis	...	-	1
Syphilis	...	-	-
General Paralysis of the Insane	...	-	-
Cancer	...	11	6
Diabetes	...	1	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	5	3
Heart Disease	...	22	14
Aneurism	...	1	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	6	8
Bronchitis	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	4	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	-	-
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	-	-
Appendicitis	...	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	2
Other Liver Diseases	...	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	2	3
Nephritis	...	-	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	-	-
Other Puerperal causes	...	-	-
Senility	...	6	5
Suicide	...	-	-
Other violence	...	5	3
Other defined causes	...	12	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	-	-
Congenital Debility, Premature	...	-	-
Birth, etc.	...	-	3
Total deaths:	148	Rate per 1,000	13.20

Infantile Mortality

There were 7 deaths of children under 1 year of age

Death rate - 36.65 per 1,000 births

Births

There were 191 live births registered during the year, of which 89 were males and 102 females. Of this number 10 were illegitimate.

There were 9 still births, 8 legitimate, 1 illegitimate.

Birth rate 17.04

General provision of Health Services for the Area

Hospitals. Provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A (i) Fever. All cases of Infectious Disease requiring removal to Hospital are sent to Gorse Hill Hospital, Swindon, under arrangement with the Swindon Borough Council.

(ii) Smallpox. Cases of this disease are removed to the County Smallpox Hospital at Ogbourne, near Marlborough.

B (i) Tuberculosis: (ii) Maternity: (iii) Children:

(iv) Other. No Hospital or Institution for treatment of the above diseases and conditions is situate in the district, but cases of Tuberculosis are treated at the County Council's Sanatoria at Winsley and Harnwood.

Maternity cases requiring Institutional treatment are sent under the County Council to the Maternity Hospital at Swindon.

C General. None in the District, medical and surgical cases being sent principally to the Victoria Hospital, Swindon, the G.W.R. Medical Fund Hospital, Swindon, the Hospital at Savernake, Marlborough, or that at Cirencester.

D The County Council Home at Marlborough for convalescent, delicate, and poorly-developed children, continues to be of great benefit to many children in the district.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, is available, when necessary, at the Public Assistance Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities

(a) For cases of Infectious Disease are provided by the Swindon Borough Council.

(b) Other cases. No ambulance is available in the District, but one can be obtained at any time from the Borough of Swindon.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

There are none of these in the District, but Clinics for Maternity, Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Orthopaedics and Venereal Disease are provided by the County Council at Swindon. The services of a Consultant in ante-natal and maternity cases are available, when required, at the patients own homes.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health - part time
Two Sanitary Inspectors - full time

Nursing Arrangements

No arrangements exist for the provision of general nursing or for the nursing of Infectious Disease in the area, other than that provided by the District Nurses.

Midwives

There are none employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. There are nine practising Midwives in the District. Six of them are employed by District Nursing Associations, all of which are subsidised by the County Council.

Laboratory work

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Greville Laboratory, the General Infirmary, Salisbury, the cost being defrayed by the County Council.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases

The incidence of Infectious Disease has again been small during the year, 10 cases of Scarlatina being notified, scattered in different parts of the District. Only one case of Diphtheria was reported. 16 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	10	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	1	-	-
Pneumonia	16	4	6
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
	31	17	6

Tuberculosis

18 cases of this disease were notified during the year. Of these 8 were of the Pulmonary type. There were 4 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 from other Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
1 - 5		1	2					
5 - 10			2	1				
C/Fwd:		1	4	1				

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
B/Fwd:								
10 - 15		1	4	1				
15 - 20		1	2	1				
20 - 25	1		1				1	1
25 - 35		1	1		2			
35 - 45		1			1			
45 - 55	2	1						
55 - 65								
65 upwards								
Totals:	4	5	7	2	3	1	1	

Water

There was no shortage of water in any part of the District during the year. The supplementary supplies at Purton and Wootton Bassett were again made use of, however.

As regards the new water scheme for the whole District, the permanent bore was completed and the yield therefrom and the analyses have proved to be very satisfactory. Work on the laying of the mains, etc. was not, however, commenced during the year.

With the exception of samples of water taken at Ashton Keynes and Cricklade, samples taken from the public supplies have proved satisfactory. At Ashton Keynes the supply was subsequently taken from the new permanent bore, and at Cricklade a chlorination plant was installed.

Rivers and Streams

No complaints were received as to pollution of rivers and streams during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

The existing works at Purton and Wootton Bassett are in good condition and working satisfactorily.

Scavenging

Complaints as to the conduct of this were received from various parts of the District, and as the Contractor demanded an increased price the Council decided to carry out the work by direct labour, commencing 1st January, 1938.

The only complaint received during the year with regard to the refuse dumps was as to the prevalence of rats at the Purton Dump. Steps were taken to deal with this nuisance.

Housing

Details of work carried out under this heading are appended in your Sanitary Inspector's report.

Milk

Your Sanitary Inspector has carried out a great many inspections during the year - a total of 435.

A faint, light-colored watermark of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment is visible in the background of the page.

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There is on the whole an improvement in the structural conditions of the cow sheds. It was necessary to prosecute one cow keeper for the dirty condition of his premises. This prosecution was successful.

Meat

There are 7 registered and 10 licensed Slaughterhouses, and 2 Knackers yards, in the District.

759 inspections were carried out under the Meat Regulations, and 5 tons 7 cwt. of meat were found unfit for human consumption and condemned. Your Sanitary Inspector's report records the details of these.

Legislation in force

Part III of The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. The Sections not repealed by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 33, 53, 54 and 95.

Public Health Act, 1925, Sections 23 and 26.

Bye-Laws with respect to Slaughterhouses, 1924 and 1929.

Bye-Laws in respect of new houses, 1936.

Bye-Laws in respect of Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures, 1930 and 1936.

Bye-Laws with respect to Lydiard Plain, 1914 and 1936.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN N. WATSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Wootton Bassett,
April, 1938.

Dr. J. N. Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year -

(a) By the Local Authority	16
(b) By other bodies or persons	34

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year -

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	110
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ... ... ... 382
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ... ... ... 103
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ... ... ... 373
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	67

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 55

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936;	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ... ... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of The Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were given by owners not to re-let for human habitation until made fit	3
(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were given by owners to make fit for human habitation	2
(5) Number of dwellinghouses made fit in compliance with undertakings given by owners	2
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of The Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	13
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	13
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein (77½ units)	88

4. (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	26
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases (166 units)	...	...	...	189
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.				Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report:				

Number of houses measured and recorded	298
" " visits made re overcrowding	391
" " overcrowded houses discovered	3

During the year overcrowding was abated in the following manner:-

Overcrowded families vacated their houses	4
" family provided with extra accommodation by converting two houses into one	1
" cases abated by a reduction in the number of inmates of the houses	6
" families removed to Council houses	10
" cases abated by increasing the accommodation by building extra rooms	4
" case abated by converting unfit rooms into habitable rooms	1
	<u>26</u>

Included in the above 26 overcrowding cases abated are 6 cases of overcrowding in Council Houses.

The overcrowding existing on December 31st, 1937, was as follows:-

Number of overcrowded houses discovered during the year 1937	...	...	...	3
Add number of overcrowded houses remaining from the year 1936	...	...	...	36
Total number of overcrowded houses existing during the year 1937	...	...	...	<u>39</u>
Less number of overcrowded cases abated during the year 1937	...	...	...	26
Number of overcrowded cases existing on December 31st, 1937	...	...	...	<u>13</u>
Number of overcrowded houses under private ownership	...	...	...	13
Number of overcrowded houses owned by the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil

In order to abate overcrowding in the District, the Council erected 16 houses, and built additional rooms to 3 houses during the year 1937.

A further 18 houses will be completed by the Council during the early part of 1938.

Tabular Summary of matters dealt with under
The Public Health and Housing Acts.

Number of defective chimney stacks re-built	6
" " " " " pointed	2
" " dwellinghouse roofs stripped and retiled on new battens and rafters	12
" " dwellinghouse roofs repaired	17
" " dwellinghouses at which new eave troughing has been fixed	26
" " dwellinghouses at which new rainwater pipes have been fixed	20
" " dwellinghouses where damp walls have been cement rendered externally	5
" " dwellinghouses where damp walls have been cement rendered internally	9
" " dwellinghouses where porous walls have been pointed	2
" " dilapidated walls of dwellinghouses rebuilt	8
" " new windows (complete) fixed at dwellinghouses	72
" " new casements hung	8
" " defective windows repaired	22
" " windows to which new sashcords were hung	5
" " defective ceilings stripped and ceiled with plasterboard	35
" " defective ceilings replastered	6
" " decayed board floors and joists taken up and renewed	15
" " defective floors repaired	11
" " rooms where new skirting has been fixed	9
" " concrete floors laid in living rooms	15
" " " " " parlours	3
" " " " " larders	9
" " " " " sculleries	4
" " " " " washhouses	11
" " new doors and frames fixed at dwelling-houses	48
" " defective doors and frames repaired	3
" " new staircases fixed	8
" " staircases repaired	2
" " defective walls replastered	24
" " rooms lined with wallboard	7
" " larders ventilated by provision of new windows	11
" " new larders built	9
" " defective roofs repaired	2
" " broken cottage ranges renewed	16
" " new register grates fixed	11
" " defective back walls rebuilt	4
" " new washhouses built	8
" " windows fixed in washhouses	3
" " washing coppers built	13
" " defective washing coppers repaired	4
" " backyards concreted	4

Number of new w.c.'s erected	...	...	...	2
" " " pail closets erected	...	...	...	9
" " privies converted to w.c.'s	...	...	...	3
" " vault closets converted to pail closets	...	...	4	
" " concrete floors laid in pail closets	...	...	12	
" " new sanitary pails provided	...	...	3	
" " 'dry areas' constructed at damp houses	...	...	8	
" " new drains laid to undrained houses	...	...	7	
" " defective drains taken up and new drains laid	...	...	2	
" new septic tanks built	...	...	3	
" " gully traps fixed	...	...	9	
" " inspection chambers built	...	...	6	
" " interceptor chambers built	...	...	4	
" " ventilation pipes fixed	...	...	4	
" " sinks fixed	...	...	1	
" choked drains cleansed	...	...	2	
" offensive accumulations removed	...	...	3	
" dwellinghouses at which light and ventilation have been improved	...	...	13	
" nuisances due to overcrowding, abated	...	...	26	

Nuisances - Public Health Acts, 1875 & 1936.

Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	16
" " " abated	...	...	14
" " inspections made	...	...	55

Water Supplies

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis -

	<u>Public Supplies</u>	<u>Private Supplies</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chemical	4	8	12
Bacteriological	11	8	19
Chemical and partial bacteriological		7	7

Details of the above samples are as follows:-

<u>Unfit for drinking purposes.</u>	<u>Fit for drinking purposes.</u>
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Chemical Analysis

Public Supplies -

Ashton Keynes (borehole)	-	2
" " (well)	-	1
Broad Town well	-	1

Private Supplies -

Broad Town	1	1
Leigh	1	2
Lyneham	2	-
Marston Meysey	-	2
Purton	1	1
Tockenham	2	-
Wootton Bassett	1	1

<u>Bacteriological Analysis</u>	<u>Unfit for drinking purposes</u>	<u>Fit for drinking purposes</u>
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Public Supplies -

Ashton Keynes (borehole)	-	2
" " (well)	1	1
Broad Town well	2	-
Cricklade	1	-
Purton	-	3
Wootton Bassett	-	1

Private Supplies -

Broad Town	2	-
Leigh	1	2
Lyneham	2	-
Marston Meysey	-	2
Purton	1	1
Tockenham	2	-
Wootton Bassett	2	-

14 12

Number of houses connected to the public water main as the result of notices served 3

At only three houses where the water was found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes was it possible to take water from a water main, and at these houses a supply was laid on.

As the water samples taken from the public supplies at Ashton Keynes and Cricklade on December 14th proved to be unsuitable for drinking purposes, the supply from the Ashton Keynes well was cut off and a new supply taken from the bore, and the water at Cricklade was chlorinated.

Only a comparatively small quantity of water was taken from the Broad Town well to augment the Wootton Bassett supply, the period during which this well was in use being from August 11th to December 14th.

Although a full supply was maintained throughout the year from all the Council's waterworks, the water yield at the sources at Purton and Wootton Bassett was insufficient during a part of the year and the insufficiency had to be made up by water pumped from the G.W.R.main at Purton and the United Dairies main at Wootton Bassett.

Number of visits made re water supplies -

In connection with public supplies	92
" " " private "	55

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Inspection and supervision of Food

Milk. Number of Dairies on Register	338
" " inspections	435
" " formal notices served under the Milk and Dairies Order re structural alterations	10
" " informal notices served re structural alterations	64
" " informal notices served re cleanliness ...	36
" " milk samples taken (Pasteurised) ...	2

Proceedings were taken under Articles 21, 22 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and 23 (iv) of the Milk and Dairies Order against a Wholesale Milk Producer, and a conviction obtained.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Number of Licensed Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	5
Number of Licensed Producers of Accredited Milk	...	...	...	44
" " Pasteuriser's Licenses issued				2

Inspections of the pasteurising plants were carried out periodically and the plants were found to be working properly.

Percentage of Licensed Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District	...	...	1.48
" " Licensed Producers of Accredited Milk in the District	...	...	13.02

Meat.

Number of Slaughterhouses on Register -

Registered 7 Licensed 10 Total 17

Number of visits made to Slaughterhouses and shops and inspections made under The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 759

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
Number of animals killed	264	162	146	750	1401	2723
Number of carcases inspected	259	159	144	686	1380	2628
Percentage of carcases inspected	98.10	98.14	98.63	91.47	99.13	96.51
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	3	6	4	5	19
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	15	4	42	22	93
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	4.25	11.32	6.94	6.88	1.96	4.26

Carcases inspected and condemned (cont'd)

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	5	2	1	-	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	29	-	62	-	135
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	17.76	21.39	1.39	9.19	-	5.52

Details and weight of condemned
meat

	Tons	cwts	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	3	14	0	24
Veal		4	3	26
Bacon and Pork	11	2	13	
Mutton		1	1	25
Offal	14	3	15	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	7	0	19

All the occupiers of the Licensed and Registered Slaughterhouses have carried on their trade in a satisfactory manner, and I have no complaints to make.

Knacker Yards

Number on Register	2
" of inspections made	7

Factories and Workshops

Number of Factories on Register	16
" Workshops " "	42
" " inspections made	53
" " notices served	15
" " " complied with	13

The number of Factories and Workshops is made up as follows:

Bakehouses	...	...	...	15
Blacksmiths shops	...	...		8
Brickworks	...	...		1
Carpenters and Builders	...			10
Cheese, Dried and Condensed Milk Manufacturers	...	...		2
Egg Factories	...	...		2

Engineering Works	...	...	...	2
Glove Factories	...	...	...	2
Implement Repair Shops	...	...	...	1
Joinery Works	...	...	...	1
Motor and Cycle Repair Shops	7
Milliners	1
Printing Works	2
Rope Works	1
Sawmills	2
Wood Turnery	1

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Infectious Diseases

Number of cases notified under Infectious Disease (Notification) Act and Public Health Act, 1936	11
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	18

The number of cases of infectious disease which have been notified during the year is very low, in fact it is the lowest number since the year 1913. (Figures are not available for years previous to 1913).

Drainage and Sewerage

The more thickly populated parts of the parishes of Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett are served by sewers and nearly all the houses within the statutory distance of these sewers have water closets. Elsewhere in the district, excepting the larger residences which have water closets, pail closets are the types of closet accommodation.

The sewage works at Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett have been working satisfactorily, and no trouble has been experienced with the sewers.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal

Scavenging of the District has been carried out by Contract. Refuse is collected from the more thickly populated parts of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett once per week, and from the remaining parts of the District there is a collection of tins, bottles, etc. once every two months. Owing to the increased amount of the Tender for scavenging and the fact that towards the end of the year a number of complaints were received regarding the collection of refuse, the Council decided to carry out the scavenging by direct labour as from 1st January, 1938, and for this purpose a new "Dennis" refuse lorry was purchased in December.

There are four refuse tips, situated in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett, and a modified system of "controlled tipping" is carried out at the tips in the first three parishes.

I am pleased to report that the serious infestation of Crickets at the Cricklade tip, which occurred in 1936, has not recurred in 1937. The only complaint received was of rats at the Purton tip, and as the result of extensive baiting, the numbers were reduced to such an extent that there was little cause for complaint.

A "tip dressing" has been used throughout the year at the Purton and Cricklade tips for the purpose of preventing the breeding of insects thereat.

Disinfestation

No houses were found to be infested by bugs, but there was an infestation of fleas at one cottage. The cottage was treated with insecticide for a time, and a final visit disclosed the fact that the trouble was eradicated.

No. of visits made re verminous premises 7

Shops Act, 1912 to 1936

There are 106 shops in the district, and most shops are heated by means of oil heaters.

Petroleum Acts

No. of Licences issued to store Petroleum and Carbide 35

Petroleum is stored in underground tanks at all storage places excepting one.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act

The attention of the inhabitants of the District was directed to the gratuitous issue of rat baits during Rat Week by the exhibition of posters in all parishes. The number of persons who made application for the baits was approximately the same as last year, and in a number of instances good reports were received as to the success of the baiting. Baits are put down on the Purton and Wootton Bassett refuse tips throughout the year, and intensive baiting was carried out for some time at the Purton tip.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.



